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THE SITUATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-ninth year

Letter dated 30 November 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina delivered by His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal, in his capacity as Chairman of the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference. I should be grateful if you would have it circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 39, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kéba Birane CISSÉ

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ANNEX

Statement on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina delivered by the President of Senegal in his capacity as Chairman of the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference, on 29 November 1994

Several days ago, the Bosnian Serbs launched an offensive in north-east Bosnia against the enclave of Bihać, which is an integral part of the territory of a full Member of the United Nations, the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The international community is beginning to get used to the perpetration of violations of the law of nations by the Serbs of the former Yugoslavia, and the invasion of Bihać is yet another example. This is a blatant attack on civilian populations, who are the innocent victims of the lethal madness thus visited upon them.

It is also an open challenge to the international community. By a resolution of the Security Council, the organ of the United Nations which is responsible for maintaining international peace and security, the town of Bihać had already been declared a safe area under international protection. That safe area has now been breached, and the people of Bihać are besieged by the implacable artillery and violence of Serb military forces.

How can we fail to be moved by such injustice, by such an obvious and unpunished violation of the collective decisions of the community of nations? How, in these circumstances, can we fail to point out that it was the Western Contact Group consisting of France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America which drew up and submitted a plan last July for the settlement of the Bosnian crisis with a warning of appropriate sanctions against any party refusing to comply with it? How also can we fail to recall the relevant recommendations of the Contact Group of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, of which Senegal is a member, which judiciously complement the Western peace plan?

How, finally, faced with the intolerable situation inflicted on the population of Bihać, can we fail to point out that it is those who are being subjected to aggression today who accepted that plan whereas the aggressors contemptuously rejected it?

I should therefore like, on behalf of Senegal and of all the countries members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, to appeal solemnly to the international community and more specifically to the Security Council to put an end to this tragedy which the whole world is witnessing today in the Bihać enclave. Putting an end to the agony of Bihać is as much a moral as a political issue. What is at stake is the credibility of the United Nations, which affirmed its faith "in the dignity and worth of the human person" and then undertook to unite its "strength to maintain international peace and security".

The new international order which presided over the birth of the United Nations laid down the fundamental principle that wars of aggression were to be banished forever. Today, in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it is more urgent than ever to ensure that this principle solemnly enshrined in the Charter of the United

Nations is applied without reserve. May the international community heed this appeal!

We take this opportunity to pay tribute to the courage of the people of Bihać in the face of adversity and injustice and to assure them of our active solidarity.